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COUNTRY Albania

SUBJECT Soviet Submarines to be Assembled in Albania

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1. Admiral I. N. Tichenov of the Soviet Navy arrived at Tiranë in Albania via plane from Prague with a mission of experts from the Soviet Navy and technicians from the submarine command. Admiral Tichenov will supervise the construction of submarines in Albania, which will operate as the First Soviet Adriatic Submarine Unit, a command which will be set up in 1955.
2. Ever since Sep 1953 the Soviet Ships Okhotsk, Kursk and Chukotka have been unloading prefabricated submarine parts at Durrës. Shipments increased considerably in Dec 1953, and are expected to continue through the whole of 1954. They will be assembled with the help of Czechoslovak and Soviet engineers.
3. The submarines are of both small and medium size. Technical equipment for the Adriatic submarine squadron will be sent to Durrës from the G.K.D. Sokolovo factory in Prague, where work is already in progress. It will be flown to Albania. Yugoslavia is not expected to make any opposition.
4. Cooperation between Albania and Prague will be assured by Col. Karel Fabián, recently appointed military attaché in Tiranë.

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